

FROM MELANIE KUNZ  
WILSON ELEMENTARY  
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Hon. Michael Kubayanda  
Chairman  
Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268-0001  
Re: Docket number: MC2021-78 DATE

Dear Chairman Kubayanda,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the impact of moving bound printed matter parcels from the Market Dominant to the Competitive Product category. I know this will dramatically increase the rates for flyers and books that are mailed to schools. I teach first grade at Wilson Elementary in Nebo school district. We are a Title 1 school and have been for many many years. In fact, we can “boast” the lowest income school in Nebo for 3 of the past 5 years. There is no doubt that the additional costs will ultimately be passed on to those purchasing books—students and their families. There are already too many barriers to reading for most families I work with. I depend on access to affordable books, which the bound printed matter rates provide, to help me close the gap for my lower-income students who normally could not afford higher-priced books.

I feel so strongly about getting print materials into the hands of my students that I personally spend over \$200 a year in personal funds to give books to my students and their families. It would break my heart if I was unable to continue to do that because of the cost increases to reading materials through Scholastic book clubs.

Typically, half of my students come from families that don’t have the means to create home libraries for their children. As a Scholastic Book Clubs partner, I am able to earn and use Bonus Points to build a classroom library of books for my students. I also use low-cost but high-quality books as rewards in my class for children who would otherwise never have a new book of their own. These books, both in the classroom and at home, continue to inspire a love of reading in my students, which has a positive impact on their success in all areas of life.

The pandemic has already had a tremendously negative consequence on my students’ learning experience and literacy rates in the United States. The increase in mailing costs of educational materials will make access to children’s literature even more difficult. I urge you to deny this transfer, or to exempt educational materials, so that I can continue to provide access to affordable, quality books for my students and families. The impact of this change for our school children would be too high a cost to bear.

Sincerely,  
Melanie Kunz

CC: Hon. Carolyn B. Maloney  
Hon. Gary C. Peters  
Hon. Ron A. Bloom